

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM
2pm, Wednesday 31 January 2018
Town House, Aberdeen

Members present: Sarah Wheeler, Vice-Convener; Peter Benton (Aberdeen Samaritans), Ken Eddie (Civic Forum), Shamini Omnes (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership), Heather Wilson (NHS), Miriam Smith (Education and Children's Services, Aberdeen City Council (ACC), Nicola Johnston (Aberdeen Inspired), Susan Dunn (C. J. Laing – Spar), Laura Bailey, Diane Sande (LSO), Tara-Erin Gilchrist (LSO).

Also present: Garry Watson (Committee Services, ACC), Gary Jobson (Police)

Apologies: Kenneth McGeough, Convener; Miriam Smith and Steven Stark.

	Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
1	<u>Minute of Meeting of 21 December 2017</u>	<p>The Forum had before it the minute of the previous meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that on line 4 of paragraph 1 on page 6, the word 'report' should be entered to read, 'The report focussed...'. .</p> <p>It was agreed that in paragraph 7 of the same text, the phrase 'service users' should be replace with, 'participants to the study'.</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minute.</p>	Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minute was agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.	G Watson
2	<u>Membership Updates</u>	There were no membership updates.		
3	<u>Training Presentation by Alcohol Focus</u>	The Vice Chairperson welcomed Aiden from Alcohol Focus Scotland to the meeting.	The Forum resolved to note the report.	

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	<u>Scotland</u>	<p>Aiden conducted a training presentation accompanied by slides.</p> <p>He discussed three key drivers, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased availability of alcohol; 2) Increased marketing of alcohol, and 3) low pricing <p>Aiden explained that the low pricing had led to people ‘pre-loading’ at home before going out.</p> <p>He advised that, each year, approximately 96% of new licence applications are approved and pointed out that there are sixteen times more places to buy alcohol in Scotland than there are GP surgeries. He added that deprived areas had, on average, 40% more alcohol outlets than affluent areas.</p> <p>The Act created the requirement for local authorities to have a Statement of Licensing Policy, in response to which the various stakeholders had pooled their data in order to produce the ‘Taking Stock’ report, from which 5 key themes had emerged:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Joint working/Collaboration; 2) Inconsistency in policy/practice; 3) Transparency, accountability and public participation; 4) Legislative complexity and Litigation; and 5) Resourcing of the Licensing System. <p>There were divergences, such as ‘harm’ as viewed by health vs non-health personnel, and public participation was identified as a huge issue, as people felt either intimidated/unsupported or they simply</p>		

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		<p>weren't interested.</p> <p>It was agreed that Forums were the key to getting everyone together.</p> <p>Aiden concluded his presentation by saying that, although progress was being made, careful consideration needed to be given to resourcing, to reduce the reliance on volunteers (Forums) and to guard against unacceptable workloads being undertaken by Licensing Standards Officers.</p> <p>There followed an opportunity for questions and discussion.</p> <p>Aiden circulated two handouts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Licensing Resource Pack-Community Toolkit; and 2) The 'Taking Stock' report. <p>Emily Queen noted the contribution of the local Unight group, which brought the Licence Trade, Police and other key stakeholders together. She said that it had moved on from its initial 'banned from one...banned from all' policy and was now a much more collaborative group which was trying engage with and inform licensing policy.</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson echoed Emily's comments and said that the Police had been very open and honest; asking what the Licence Trade thought they were getting wrong, and had reacted positively to the feedback they received from the Trade. The result was a Unight group which was now more productive and had a partnership atmosphere.</p>		

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		Aiden noted that there were issues around making sure that Licensing Boards listened to their respective Forums.		
4	<u>Update from Police Scotland: Licensing Objective 1: Preventing Crime and Disorder</u>	Deferred to next meeting.		
5	<u>Update from Licensing Standards Officer: Objective 2: Securing Public Safety</u>	Diane Sande advised that she was due to attend the annual Licensing Standards Officer meet-up. She advised that the theme for this year's meeting was Minimum Unit Pricing and she said that an update would be given to the Forum.	The Forum resolved to note the update.	
6	<u>Update from Unight Representative: Licensing Objective 3: Preventing Public Nuisance</u>	Sarah Wheeler advised that defibrillator training continued to be rolled out and that the group was currently focussing on the Statement of Licensing Policy, with ideas around overprovision.	The Forum resolved to note the update.	
7	<u>Update from NHS Grampian and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership: Licensing Objective 4: Protecting and Improving Public Health</u>	<p>Heather Wilson advised that pregnancy advice was currently being promoted and that posters were available.</p> <p>She also advised that Rohan was seeking feedback on the report that was presented to the December meeting and it was agreed that comments could be submitted to the Clerk.</p> <p>Heather further advised that Health and Social Care Partnership workshops were going to be taking place with the focus on improving and extending community participation.</p>	<p>Any feedback to be forwarded to the Clerk.</p> <p>The Forum otherwise resolved to note the update.</p>	All members
8	<u>Update from</u>	Deferred to next meeting.		

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	<u>Children's Services Representative: Licensing Objective 5: Protecting Children from Harm</u>			
9	<u>AOCB</u>	<p>The Forum was reminded that a Licensing Conference was scheduled for the 8th March in the Town and County Hall, Aberdeen Town House and that members needed to register to take part.</p> <p>Gary Jobson advised the Forum that a project proposal, in respect of his Police Diploma, had been approved and that he would be circulating questionnaires to the Forum members in due course.</p>		
10	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	<p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 4 April 2018.</p> <p><u>SARAH WHEELER, Vice-Convenor</u></p>		G Watson

If you require any further information about this minute, please contact Garry Watson, tel. 01224 523057 or email gawatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk